IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A method of extracting organic substances present in coral, ~~which consists in~~ comprising treating the coral with a fluid or a mixture of fluids in ~~the~~ a supercritical state without modifying the crystalline structure of said coral, at a temperature of less than 270°C, ~~preferably 260°C or less, and more preferably 250°C or less,~~ and at a pressure which is much higher than the critical pressure of said fluid or mixture of fluids~~, for example of the order of at least 3 times, and preferably at least 5 times said critical pressure~~.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, in which said fluid is selected from ethanol and acetone ~~and the mixture of fluids is selected from an ethanol and carbon dioxide mixture and from an acetone and carbon dioxide mixture, the critical temperature of which is less than 270°C, preferably 260°C or less, and more preferably 250°C or less~~.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, in which said fluid is ethanol.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3, in which the coral treatment pressure is in the range 300 MPa to 450 Mpa~~, preferably in the range 350 MPa to 400 MPa~~.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4, in which the coral treatment temperature is in the range 240°C to 260°C, ~~preferably of the order of 250°C~~ and the coral treatment period is in the range 15 min to 240 min~~, preferably of the order of 1 hour~~.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~2~~, in which the mixture of fluids is an ethanol and carbon

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dioxide mixture, and the coral treatment pressure is in the range 30 MPa to 50 MPa~~, preferably of the order of 40 MPa~~.

7. (original) A method according to claim 6, in which the coral treatment temperature is of the order of 80°C to 100°C.

8. (currently amended) Coral obtained by the method according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.

9. (original) A bone substitute fabricated from coral in accordance with claim 8.

10. (new) A method according to claim 1, in which said mixture of fluids is selected from the group consisting of ethanol and carbon dioxide mixtures, acetone and carbon dioxide mixtures, the critical temperature of said mixture being less than 270°C.

11. (new) A method according to claim 3, in which the coral treatment pressure is in the range 350 MPa to 400 MPa.

12. (new) A method of extracting organic substances present in coral, comprising treating the coral with a fluid or a mixture of fluids in a supercritical state without modifying the crystalline structure of said coral, at a temperature of less than 270°C and at a pressure which is at least 3 times higher than the critical pressure of said fluid or mixture of fluids.

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